

Spectrum



Historic ceremony heralds new Signal Brigade

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The 93rd Signal Brigade officially deactivated in a ceremony on Barton Parade Field April 23, allowing it to immediately re-flag as the 35th Signal Brigade.

Col. David Dodd, 93rd Signal Brigade commander, and the 35th Signal Brigade commander following the ceremony, furlled and unfurled both brigade colors personally along with Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Rudolph Johns. Brig. Gen. Carroll Pollett, NETCOM commander, was present to give the order.

"Today is an historic day for two of the Signal Corps' most decorated brigades," said Dodd. "This ceremony represents a chapter in the rich history of the 35th Signal Brigade."

Prior to the reflagging ceremony, the 35th Signal Brigade had provided Corps support to the 18th Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, N.C.

When the plan for total Army transformation called for the brigade's deactivation on April 12, their history and lineage was too strong to relegate

to the Center of Military History, and was symbolically brought to Fort Gordon in the 35th Signal Brigade (Airborne) final airborne operation on April 13.

"We are re-shaping our Signal Forces in support of the Army's transformation to a modular force with increased capabilities to defeat our enemy," said Dodd. This re-structure streamlines our Signal forces and allows us to reduce the number of Signal Brigades."

"We're always ready to follow any orders the Army gives us, and I do believe the Army will come out stronger because of it," said Johns. "Still, no one likes to lose a part of their history, and the 93rd Signal Brigade had a fine history."

The 93rd Signal Brigade colors will retire to the Center of Military History until such time as they are needed in

Army history yet-to-be-written.

"History proves that we fight an ever changing, adaptive enemy," said Dodd. "One day, these colors and this great unit will come out of retirement and once again fight to defend America."



All battalions of the brigade were represented on the parade field, including the Army Signal Activity from Miami Fl., and the 50th Signal Battalion, which will remain based in Fort Bragg though it falls under the command of the 35th.

Also present at the ceremony were many former officers of the 93rd Signal Brigade and prominent citizens of Augusta to observe and take part in the ceremony.

"Our success, and quite possibly our survival, as a nation is contingent on the support of the American people and on their will to preserve," said Dodd. "My prayer, and my hope, is

that one day every American will resolve themselves to support the men and women of the Armed Forces just as the citizens of Augusta, Georgia have supported the Soldiers and Families of their re-flagged 35th Signal Brigade."

The mission of the 35th Signal Brigade will remain the same as the mission of the 93rd, which is to provide outstanding signal support for military operations throughout the world.

"Your organizational name, your unit patch, the color of your headgear and your equipment all change as we transform," said Dodd. "However, you remain the centerpiece of the Army. You honor us all here today, and we thank you for your mission success, your hard work and your personal sacrifices."

"The Soldiers out on this parade field, who exemplify selfless service and dedication to duty, bring their combat experience with them after the reflagging," said Pollett. "Seeing you now, I have little doubt you will continue to be technically strong, Signal strong and Army Strong."



Photo by Sgt. Christopher Selmek

(Above) Col. David Dodd, 35th Signal Brigade commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Rudolph Johns unfurl the 35th Signal Brigade colors, which replace the retired 93rd Signal Brigade colors, April 23 on Barton Parade Field. (Right) Staff Sgt. James Ellington, 63rd Signal Battalion, 35th Signal Brigade, brings in the new brigade colors to be uncased by Dodd and Johns in the official reflagging ceremony.



Photo by Sgt. Christopher Selmek



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Brig. Gen. Carroll Pollett, NETCOM commander, returns the salute of 35th Signal Brigade commander Col. David Dodd as he gives the command to case the retired 93rd Signal Brigade colors and uncasing the 35th Signal Brigade colors, thus re-designating the entire unit.



Photo by Tammy Moehlman

(Left to right) Spc. Sean Bjornstron and Pvt. Seth Shawger, 35th Signal Brigade, assemble their communications equipment after parachuting onto Preston Drop Zone on Fort Gordon during the brigade's last jump on April 23.



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(Above and left) 35th Signal Brigade airborne Soldiers parachute onto Fort Gordon's Preston Drop Zone during the brigade's last jump on April 23.